
LESSON 10

MEF TARGETING

Targeting is the process of selecting targets and matching the appropriate response to them taking account of operational requirements and capabilities.

-- Joint Pub 1-02
*DoD Dictionary of Military
and Associated Terms*

Targeting (DOD, NATO) is the process of selecting targets and matching appropriate responses to them taking account of operational requirements and capabilities.

-- *The Official Dictionary of Military Terms,*
2nd edition

Catch the enemy by the nose with fire and kick him in the pants with fire emplaced through movement.

-- Lt. Gen. George S. Patton
War As I Knew It

Introduction

Purpose

This lesson

- Helps you to understand the basic concepts behind targeting
 - Reviews the targeting process
 - Discusses targeting in a joint and multinational environment
 - Introduces the process of identifying enemy targets and determining the appropriate attack system
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Why Study Targeting?

The purpose of targeting is to select for attack those enemy installations, units, or equipment that are most vulnerable and best support the accomplishment of the mission. Just as basic marksmanship is essential for a Marine rifleman, effective targeting is necessary at the MEF level to achieve success on the battlefield. Knowing what to shoot and placing the appropriate fire on the enemy at the right time is the goal of any military force. The combat power and destruction or disruptive force a unit is capable of is largely determined by its targeting capabilities.

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Introduction, Continued

Accurate and Timely Fire

Accurate and timely fire wins battles and wars. Fire that is not properly directed is wasted and may even inflict friendly casualties. While the basic concept of targeting appears simple, the execution is very complex at the MEF level. As a highly flexible combined arms team, specializing in amphibious and maneuver warfare, the MEF presents you with a complex array of targeting problems and opportunities. To maximize the MEF's combat power, your targeting effort must collect an accurate picture of the enemy's disposition while making optimal use of MEF weapons to support the commander's battle plan. This is achieved through the integration of operations, intelligence, and attack agencies in an overall targeting process.

Relationship to other Instruction

Targeting is an integral part of the commander's focus on visualizing and shaping the battlespace, sustaining combat power, and defeating the enemy. Effective targeting allows the commander to

- Shape the battlespace
- Impose his or her will on the enemy
- Strip the opposing commander of his or her initiative

Done properly, it is integrated with the commander's intent in support of the desired end-state. MEF targeting concepts introduced in this lesson elaborate on the information introduced in previous lessons on force fires, fire support coordination, and the aviation combat element (ACE). This lesson also ties in with subsequent lessons on battlespace functions (BSFs) and integrated planning.

Study Time

This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 2 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Targeting Process	Comprehend the basic functions of the targeting process. [JPME 1(b) and 3(c)]
Scheme of Maneuver	Understand how the MEF commander integrates his or her scheme of maneuver, the Intelligence Preparation of the Battlespace (IPB), and the attack options to shape the battlefield.
Organizations	Identify which organizations within the MEF can support the targeting effort.
JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	1/b/.5 3/c/.5

Discussion

**Definition
of Targeting**

Targeting is the process of identifying the enemy's installation, agency, or group of persons for possible engagement and determining the appropriate attack system to be used to capture, destroy, degrade, or neutralize the target in question.

**Targeting
Emphasis**

The emphasis of targeting is on identifying resources (targets) the enemy can least afford to lose or that provide him with the greatest advantage, then further identifying the subset of those targets that must be acquired and attacked to achieve friendly success.

**Target
Selection**

When selecting targets, consider the following:

- Center of gravity
 - Target as a mission
 - Target system
 - Laws of armed conflict (LOAC)
 - Rules of engagement (ROE)
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**Targeting
in the
MAGTF CE**

Means of targeting in the MAGTF CE include

- Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)
 - Deep reconnaissance (recon) units
 - Signals intelligence (SIGNIT) collectors
 - Photographic and satellite sources
 - Human intelligence
 - Adjacent units
 - External sources
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Discussion, Continued

Targeting in the MAGTF GCE

Means of targeting in the MAGTF GCE include

- Forward observers (FOs)
- Forward air controllers (FACs)
- Naval gunfire (NGF) spotters
- Ground intelligence sensors
- Weapons-locating radar
- Combat troops
- Reconnaissance units

Targeting in the MAGTF ACE

Means of targeting in the MAGTF ACE include

wForward air controller (airborne) FAC(A)
wNaval aviation observer (NAO)
wOther aircraft (including recon and electronic warfare) (EW)

Targeting Within the Amphibious Task Force

Means of targeting within the Amphibious Task Force (ATF) include

- **Joint Intelligence Center (JIC):** The central collection point at the ATF for all intelligence collection, analysis, and reporting. It is manned by ground, air, and naval intelligence personnel, including both Navy and Marine Corps personnel.
- **Target Information Center (TIC):** Located in the Supporting Arms Coordination Center (SACC), it's primary function is to keep the SACC informed of the status of high priority targets; maintain liaison between the SACC and the JIC; and prepare and maintain target cards, the ATF target list, and target bulletins.

Targeting with a JTF

A means of targeting with a Joint Task Force (JTF) includes

Joint Targeting Coordination Board: Supports the Joint Force Commander in the planning process and to coordinate joint fires.

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Discussion, Continued

Joint Targeting Coordination Board	In accordance with the Joint Pub 1-02, <i>DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms</i> , the Joint Targeting Coordination Board was formed by the JFC to accomplish broad targeting oversight functions...coordinate target information, guidance, and priorities...representatives from JTF staff, all components, and if required component subordinate units.
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Joint Targeting	Joint targeting is comprised of the commander's guidance and as defined by the JFC, the roles of
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Joint Targeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">wThe Joint Targeting Coordination Board (JTCB)wThe Joint Targeting Steering Group (JTSG)wThe Joint Force Air Component Commander (JFACC)
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Joint Targeting Process	<p>The joint targeting process includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Guidance provided by JFC● Targeting input to JFACC/JTCB for preparation of the joint target list (JTL) by components● Initial JTL for JTSG review by JFACC/JTCB● Approved JTL and apportionment to JFACC forwarded by JFC● Published Air Tasking Order (ATO) by JFACC● ATO passed to components for information and execution● Missions executed and BATTLE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT (BDA) process begun● BDA information passed to JFACC and component BDA cells
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Discussion, Continued

Targeting Methodology	Targeting methodology is divided into four primary functions. They are decide, detect, deliver, and assess (DDDA). This method supports the planning process and helps to ensure that MEF's efforts are centered on the commander's battle plan. These functions do not stand alone, but are inherently intertwined and overlapping.
Decide	This function provides a clear picture of the priorities applicable to the tasking of target acquisition, information processing, selection of an attack means, and the requirements for damage assessment. The decide function helps the commander to determine his target guidance.
Detect	Target acquisition assets are tasked to locate (detect) the specific targets that were identified as of importance during the decide phase. Intelligence resources are concentrated toward high-payoff targets (HPT).
Deliver	The main objective of the deliver phase is the attack on targets and damage assessment. This is the actual tactical employment of weapon systems to bring appropriate fires on the targets. The damage assessment will help you to determine if your fire hit the intended target.
Assess	During this final step, the commander needs to assess whether the objectives of the fire were achieved. If not, the detect and deliver functions must be repeated.

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Discussion, Continued

Targeting Agencies

Targeting is accomplished through a variety of agencies at the MAGTF, the Amphibious Task Force, and Joint Task Force levels. These agencies are discussed in the next several blocks.

Force Fires Coordination Center

The Force Fires Coordination Center (FFCC), the functional part of the MEF CE. It provides centralized targeting, coordination, and integration of fires delivered in support of the MEF. It also gives you, the MEF commander, the ability to focus on the deep and shape the future battle.

FFCC's Primary Responsibilities

The FFCC's primary responsibilities are to

- Plan, acquire, and maintain valid target information
- Coordinate and integrate MEF level fires into current operations and prospective plans

It also provides a vertical linkage for MEF into the joint targeting process via the MEF Targeting Board that provides the MEF Integrated Prioritized Target List (MIPTL) to the Joint Targeting Coordination Board at the Joint Task Force.

MAGTF Targeting Interactions

MAGTF targeting starts with the commander's guidance and includes interaction among

- Fires
 - Intelligence
 - Operations
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Discussion, Continued

MEF Targeting Components

MEF targeting includes

- Methodology - (DDDA)
 - MEF Targeting Board
 - MEF integrated prioritized target list (MIPTL)
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MEF Targeting Board Staff

The MEF Targeting Board staff includes

- Deputy MEF commander
 - ACE representative
 - Force fires coordinator
 - G-2 and G-3
 - Staff judge advocate (SJA)
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MEF Targeting Board Duties

The MEF Targeting Board duties include

- Reviewing target lists and recommends priority
 - Selecting targets
 - Selecting best means to attack targets
 - Specifying BDA requirements
 - Developing MIPTL
 - Selecting targets forwarded to the JTCB
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Required Reading

FM/FMFRP Readings

FM 6-20-10, *The Targeting Process*, chapter 1, "The Targeting Process," pp. 1-1 to 1-8; chapter 2, "Targeting Methodology," pp. 2-1 to 2-16; and Appendix G, "Marine Corps Targeting Considerations," pp. G-1 to G-5. Find this reading in the *FM/FMFRP Readings* (8800), pp. 1 to 8 and 11 to 26.

- Chapter 1 describes the process used by U.S. Army units operating as part of a joint force. It is descriptive and not prescriptive in nature and has applicability in any theater of operation. It offers considerations for commanders and their staffs in meeting the targeting challenge, yet it is flexible enough to adapt to the most dynamic situation.
 - Chapter 2 explains the DDDA targeting methodology, which is designed to assist the commander in the decision-making process.
 - Appendix G describes the targeting effort support organizations within the MEF.
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For Further Study

References

The following readings are **not** required. These references were used to address the topics presented in the lesson. They are included for your review as needed.

- Joint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*.
 - Joint Pub 2-01.1, *JTTP for Intelligence Support to Targeting*.
 - FMFM 5-70, *Aviation Planning*.
 - FMFM 6-18, *Techniques and Procedures for Fire Support Coordination Measures*.
 - FM 6-20, *Fire Support in the Air/Land Battle*.
 - FM 6-20-30, *Fire Support for Corps and Division Operations*.
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Issues for Consideration

**DDDA
Functions**

Describe the DDDA functions of the targeting process.

Relationship

What is the special relationship between "fires" and "targeting"? What are some of the techniques used to maximize their effectiveness at the MAGTF level?

**Other
Organizations**

What other organizations within the MEF are involved in or support the targeting process?